

Response to Office Action Mailed January 10, 2007

A. Claims In The Case

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 have been rejected. Claims 5 and 6 have been objected to. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, and 13 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6-13 are pending in the case.

B. Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1 for clarification.

C. The Claims Are Not Indefinite Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 7 has been amended for clarification. Applicant submits that all the claims are now definite.

D. The Claims Are Not Indefinite Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 7 has been amended for clarification. Applicant submits that all the claims are now definite.

E. Claims 39, 41, and 44 Have Been Substantially Rewritten in Independent Form

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1, and the claims dependent on claim 1 (claims 2-4 and 6-13), now include features from claim 5. As such, Applicant submits that claims 26 and 61, and the claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

F. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 7-13 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,475,525 to Shields in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,577,299 to Benbow et al.. Applicant submits that the references, alone or in combination do not appear to teach all of the features of amended claim 1.

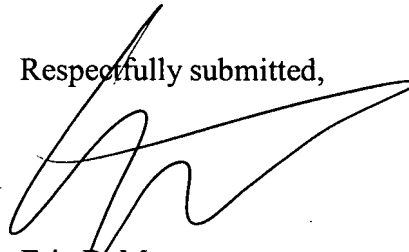
G. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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10/511,946

Applicant respectfully requests a one- month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated January 10, 2007. A fee authorization form in the amount of \$60.00 is enclosed for the extension of time fee. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5991-01100/EBM

Respectfully submitted,



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